

1. **What was / has been your occupation before entering politics?** I graduated from Queen's University with a degree in Economics, and I started my own small business in 1997 that still operates locally today.

2. **Do you live in the riding and, if so, how long has it been your home?** I was born and raised in Kingston, and have always lived and worked here.

3. **What has been your main involvement with your community outside of work (volunteer activities, etc.)?**

As a former City Councillor, Mayor of Kingston, and MP for Kingston and the Islands, it's hard for me to separate my involvement in the community from my work. I've been honoured to work with so many members of our community through those roles, and to raise my young family here with my wife Vanessa. In addition to attending community events and festivals, we love exploring our local libraries, parks, and supporting downtown Kingston in our free time.

4. **In your life what event, or book, or speech, or song or even TV show has made the biggest impression on you and your political thinking? Why?**

Growing up, I had many opportunities to see my dad, former Kingston and the Islands MPP John Gerretsen, engaging with lots of different people and organizations in our community. I know that he cared deeply about the issues that they cared about, and I got to see the ways that he brought these issues forward at Queen's Park. Politics is about people and making connections, and I think my dad's approach to local representation was something that has inspired and motivated my own actions.

5. **What previous politician, (alive or dead, but not currently in parliament) is a role model for you?** Tommy Douglas. I have immense respect for him for his vision and work in driving Canada forward to adopt universal, public health care. I would like to follow his example and make sure health care in Canada continues to support the needs of Canadians with the adoption of universal pharmacare.

6. **What policy in your party's platform do you think matters most to the people in your riding?**

Like many Canadians across the nation, we recognize that climate change is one of the most pressing challenges that we face in the 21st century. We have a plan to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. We will continue to lead with a price on pollution and a plan to help reduce emissions. To better support healthy ecosystems that help fight climate change, we will move forward with an ambitious plan to plant two billion trees over 10 years. This will help create about 3,500 seasonal jobs in tree planting each year, and will be part of a \$3 billion commitment to better conserve and restore forests, grasslands, agricultural lands, wetlands, and coastal areas. As part of this commitment, we will also help cities expand and diversify their urban forests, will invest to protect Canada's trees from infestations, and will help rebuild our forests

after a wildfire. We will invest every dollar we earn from the Trans Mountain Expansion Project in Canada's clean energy transition. It is estimated that additional federal corporate income tax revenues resulting from the Trans Mountain Expansion Project could generate \$500 million per year once the project has been completed. This money, as well as any profit from the sale of the pipeline, will be invested in natural climate solutions and clean energy projects that will power our homes, businesses, and communities for generations to come.

Affordable housing is a major concern in Kingston. The National Housing Strategy that the Liberal government introduced last year, and that our platform pledges to continue, is a key tool to increase access to housing. One of the most important features of this policy is that, to access this once-in-a-generation funding (\$50 billion over ten years), you have to build energy efficient housing, to minimize the greenhouse gas emissions which come from heating and cooling our homes. So at the same time that we're thinking about housing, we're thinking about climate change, another issue which is top of mind for people locally.

7. Recent polls suggest many Canadians are disillusioned with politics. If elected, what would you do to address those concerns? I'm lucky to spend a lot of time with young people in Kingston and the Islands, and to have many of them working on my campaign. I think they set a great example. They want honesty and progress from politicians, and they want to be part of the solution. Engaging more with grassroots groups, involving them in the solutions we need, is a great way to make progress and counteract some of that natural cynicism we have around politics. Partisan politics aside, I think it is so important to encourage Canadian youth to register and exercise their right to vote. My team and I have made this a priority by visiting campuses and informing students how they can cast their ballots, regardless of whom they intend to vote for.